

Trends in Photovoltaic Applications - Survey report of selected IEA countries between 1992 and 2004

Trends in Photovoltaic Applications (2005) outlines a number of significant developments across PV markets in both member and non-member countries during calendar year 2004. Some of the highlights:

- The 770 MW installed – 94 % of which was in Japan, Germany and the US – represented a record growth rate of 42 %.
- The previously steady increase of budgets for market stimulation decreased for the first time in a decade while RD&D expenditure continued to increase.
- There were both unprecedented surges in market growth and collapses of domestic markets – the consequences of political decisions on national programmes. Evidence emerged that the long-awaited concept of the self-sustaining grid-connected market might not be as far away as once thought, if the right environment is created and price forms only part of the equation.
- In the PVPS countries annual photovoltaic cell production rose by 62 %, cell production capacity increased by 39 % and module production capacity rose by a staggering 70 %. However this confidence was somewhat tempered by a considerable tightening of supply further upstream in the production value chain. Price movements reflected this: on average, both off-grid and grid-connected systems showed a slight increase in prices over the previous year, with two thirds of the PVPS countries showing price increases and one third decreases.

This tenth annual *Trends in Photovoltaic Applications* comes from the IEA-PVPS Programme's Task 1, which is responsible for facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information on the technical, economic, environmental and social aspects of photovoltaic power systems. The publication focuses on trends in PV power applications in the PVPS member and other countries and is largely based on the information provided in the National Survey Reports which are produced annually by each Task 1 participant.

These National Survey Reports are funded by the participating countries and provide a wealth of information. The latest versions are available from the PVPS public website www.iea-pvps.org and are a key component of the collaborative work carried out within the PVPS Programme. Task 1 participants share information on how to most effectively gather data in their respective countries including information on national market frameworks, public budgets, the industry value chain, prices, economic benefits, new initiatives, electricity utility interests, standards and codes, and an overview of R&D activities.

In the current environment of increased stimulation of demand and tightening of supply the next Trends report will provide an insight into the dynamic global PV market. The Trends report is available on the public website www.iea-pvps.org, can be downloaded as a complete document, and figures and tables can be downloaded separately. Printed copies can be obtained by contacting national Task 1 participants or the Executive Secretary.